

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 2750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: MORE KBL CANDIDATES

REF: MANILA 2653

1. SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 16, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF MORE CANDIDATES, INCLUDING AMNY FORMER "OLD SOCIETY" POLITICIANS, WHO WILL RUN FOR SEATS IN THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA ON THE KILUSANG BAGONG LUPUNAN (KBL) TICKET. THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES, WHEN ADDED TO THE 89 CANDIDATES WHOSE NAMES WERE MADE PUBLIC THE DAY BEFORE (REFTEL), LEAVE ONLY 23 VACANCIES ON THE 165 MEMBER KBL SLATE. STILL TO BE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED ARE THE KBL CANDIDATES FOR METRO MANILA AND FOR TWO PROVINCIAL SLOTS, ONE IN ILOCOS AND ONE IN BICOL. MRS. MARCOS' INCLUSION ON THE METRO MANILA TICKET NOW SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. TRADITIONAL POLITICIANS. ABOUT 140 MEMBERS OF THE KBL TEAM WERE INVITED TO A MALACANANG CEREMONY THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 16 AT WHICH PRESIDENT MARCOS MADE PUBLIC THEIR INCLUSION IN THE NEARLY COMPLETE KBL SLATE OF CANDIDATES. MARCOS CALLED THE KBL CANDIDATES "A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS," WHO HE SAID WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT THE LEGACY OF THE NEW
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SOCIETY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS AFTER HE HAS PASSED FROM THE SCENE. PRESIDENT MARCOS' SENTIMENT NOTWITHSTANDING, HIS ANNOUNCEMENT ADDS A NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL POLITICNANS, SCHOOLED IN THE ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE OF OLD SOCIETY ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, TO THE MANY POLITICAL PROS ALREADY NAMED TO THE KBL TICKET THE PREVIOUS DAY. AMONG THE ADDITIONS ARE:
--13 FORMER CONGRESSMEN: ANTONIO RAQUIZA (ILOCOS

SUR), ANDRES COSALAN (BENGUET), RUDOLFO ALBANO, (ISABELA), BENJAMIN PEREZ (NUEVA VISCAYA), LEOPOLDO DIAZ (NUEVA ECIJA), ANGEL CONCEPCION (NUEVA ECIJA), FRISCO SAN JUAN (RIZAL), AMANDO COPE (ALBAY), CARLOS IMPERIAL (ALBAY), EMERITO "TITO" CALDERON (CEBU), ARTEMIO MATE (LEYTE), FERNANDO VELOSO (SAMAR), NICANOR YNIGUEZ (SOUTHERN LEYTE);

--8 FORMER OR PRESENT GOVERNORS: SIMON GATO (BATANES), ROLANDO PUZON (ABRA), GUALBERTO LUMAIG (IFUGAO), EMILION ESPINOSA (MASBATE), MARCIAL PIMENTEL (CAMARINES NORTE), AUGUSTO ORTIZ (SORSOGON), CARLOS FORTICH, (BUKIDNON), HENRY REGALDO (MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL);

--2 DELEGATES TO THE 1971-73 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: ARTURE PACIFICADOR (ANTIQUE), ANTONIO TUPAZ (AGUSAN DEL NORTE)

3. CABINET MEMBERS: TWO ADDITIONAL CABINET MEMBERS WERE ADDED TO THE LIST. THEY ARE JUAN PONCE ENRILE, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, WHO WILL RUN IN REGION 11 (CAGAYAN VALLEY) AND JOSE ASPIRAS, SECRETARY OF TOURISM, WHO WILL RUN IN REGION 1 (ILOCOS). INDICATIONS ARE THAT A TOTAL OF ELEVEN OR TWELVE CABINET MEMBERS WILL APPEAR ON THE KBL SLATE. IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHAT THIS WILL DO TO THE TOTAL MAKEUP OF THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA. ACCORDING TO THE 1978 ELECTION CODE, THE IBP SHALL HAVE

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200 MEMBERS --THE PRESIDENT, 165 MEMBERS ELECTED BY REGION, 14 SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND 20 CABINET MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT. IF ELEVEN CABINET MEMBERS OCCUPY ELECTED IBP SEATS, THIS WOULD LEAVE ONLY ONE CABINET MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED, LEAVING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE IBP UNCLEAR. COMELEC COMMISSIONER YANEZA HAS ADMITTED THAT THIS PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTION CODE IS IMPRECISE. HE SPECULATED THAT MARCOS WILL CHOOSE TO APPOINT ADDITIONAL HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO THE IBP TO MAINTAIN ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AT 200.

4. METRO MANILA. THE METRO MANILA KBL SLATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER TODAY FOLLOWING A COMPLEX AND CONFUSING EXERCISE OF "BARANGGANIC DEMOCRACY" IN WHICH BARANGAYS PURPORTEDLY WILL HOLD CAUCUSES AROUND THE CITY TO VOTE ON KBL CANDIDATES. THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE FINAL SLATE APPROVED BY THE METRO MANILA BARANGAYS WILL ADHERE CLOSELY TO A LIST OF PROBABLE CANDIDATES ALREADY PUBLISHED IN THE MANILA PRESS. ALSO, THERE NOW SEEMS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 2750

LITTLE DOUBT THAT MRS. MARCOS WILL LEAD THE METRO MANILA TICKET. PRESIDENT MARCOS, WHEN ASKED YESTERDAY BY REPORTERS IF HIS WIFE PLANS TO RUN, REPLIED, "IF SHE IS NEEDED, LIKE A GOOD SOLIDER, SHE WILL OBEY." BOTH THE TIMES JOURNAL AND DAILY EXPRESS REPORT THAT MRS. MARCOS' NOMINATION NOW SEEMS CERTAIN.

5. PRESIDENT MARCOS' HOME DISTRICT. ONE OF THE FOURTEEN SLOTS ON THE KBL TICKET ALLOTTED TO THE ILOCOS REGION HAS NOT YET BEEN FILLED. PRESIDENT MARCOS TOLD NEWSMEN TODAY THAT THE SLOT WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO THIS HOME DISTRICT IN ILOCOS NORTE IS BEING LEFT VACANT FOR THE TIME BEING. HE SAID LOCAL LEADERS FROM THE AREA HAVE REQUESTED THAT NO ONE OTHER THAN MARCOS BE ALLOWED TO "LAY CLAIM TO THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT THE DISTRICT IN THE FUTURE." (MARCOS, AS INCUMBENT PRESIDENT, WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE IBP WITHOUT STAND-ING FOR ELECTION).

6. INDECISION IN THE BICOL. THE REMAINING SLOT ON THE KBL TICKET NOT YET FILLED IS ONE OF THE TWELVE ALLOTTED TO THE BICOL REGION. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (MANILA 1342), BICOL TRADITIONAL POLITICAL BOSSES STRONGLY OPPOSE THE CANDIDACY OF INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD WHO NEVERTHELESS SEEMS TO HAVE MALACANANG BACKING. THE RESULT IS AN
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IMPASSE, WITH THE SLOT WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE ALLOCATED TO A REPRESENTATIVE FROM CATANDUANES STILL VACANT.

ASKED ABOUT THIS BY REPORTERS YESTERDAY, MARCOS SAID
HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY PROBLEMS IN THE BICOL BUT WOULD
ASK HIS POLITICAL LIEUTENANTS TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION
IMMEDIATELY.
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